

Ban on futures trading in essential commodities

463. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether initiatives have been taken to ban futures trading in essential commodities as recommended by parliamentary standing committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether persons have been arrested or booked under ECA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The recommendations made by the Standing Committee are under examination. However, the Forward Markets Commission (FMC) vide letter dated 23.01.2007 has directed the three National Exchanges, namely (i) Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., (ii) National Commodity & Derivatives Exchanges Ltd., (iii) National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. to delist all contracts of tur and urad and to close out all outstanding positions in all tur and urad contracts at the closing prices on 23.01.2007. FMC has also stated that no further contract shall be launched without its prior approval, and permission already granted to launch contracts in urad and tur stand withdrawn.

Besides, FMC has on 27.2.2007 directed all the three National Exchanges that no new wheat and rice contracts be launched. In the letter to the Exchanges, FMC has stated that permission already granted for yet to be launched contracts stands revoked and that in respect of running contracts in the these commodities no new position should be allowed to be taken. Only squaring up of positions should be allowed.

(c) and (d) The action taken by the State Governments/Union Territories under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 against traders in respect of essential commodities during the period from 0.01.2006 to 31.12.2006 is given in the Statement.

Statement

Action Taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 information received from States/UTs for the year 2006 (1.01.06 onwards) Report for the month upto December, 06

S No	STATE/UT	No. of raids	No. of Persons arrested	No. of Persons prosecuted	No. of Persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated (in Rs Lakhs)	Reported upto
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	8747	190	20	40	106.2	November
2	Assam	947	161	4	1	0.26	June
3	Arunachal Pradesh	20					February
4	Bihar						Not reported
5	Chhattisgarh	341	17	175	94	165.5	November
6	Delhi	67	32			0.47	November
7	Gujarat	31816	55	116		47.8	November
8	Goa	17				0.1	December
9	Haryana	28	23	13	Nil	1.16	November
10	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	October
11	Jammu & Kashmir	230	188	104		0.43	March
12	Jharkhand						Not reported
13	Karnataka	2887	53	3	0	26.9	November
14	Kerala	3795	3	3		0.21	August
15	Madhya Pradesh	29465	85	249	337	244.16	2005-06
16	Maharashtra	2466	1514	2190	Nil	118.24	November
17	Manipur	68	9	9	9	9.2	October
18	Meghalaya	56	7	7		0.06	November
19	Mizoram	47					May
20	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	October
21	Orissa	1218	27	93		9.89	Sept.
22	Punjab	32634	19	4		0.4	Sept.
23	Rajasthan						Not reported
24	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	August
25	Tamilnadu	2063	171			125.71	April*
26	Tripura						Not reported
27	Uttaranchal	13398	10	23	67	2.33	2005-06
28	Uttar Pradesh	4163	55	163	17	114.54	Sept \$

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29	West Bengal	270	73	31		2.91	Sept.**
30	A & N Islands	128	2692				Sept.
31	Chandigarh	3	4	4		0.13	October\$\$
32	D & N Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	August
33	Daman & Diu						Not reported
34	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	November
35	Pondicherry	151	33	33	0	0.61	November
Total:		135025	5421	3244	565	977.21	

* Only January & April

\$-Only June, July & Sept.

\$\$-Except May

**-Except April

Pulses through PDS

†464. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- whether it is a fact that the prices of pulses are rising exorbitantly;
- if so, whether Government are having any scheme to distribute pulses to poor people through Public Distribution System; and
- if so, by when the said scheme would be implemented and the rates in per kilogram at which the pulses would be made available at these shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The percentage variations in the Wholesale Price Indices of different pulses are given in the Statement (See below). As seen from the Annexure, annual percentage variation in the WPI of gram, moong and urad as on 10.2.07 has registered a decline as compared to percentage variation in the WPI of these pulses as on 18.11.06. However, in case of tur there is an increase over the period.

(b) and (c) At present, wheat, rice, coarse grains, kerosene and sugar are distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Pulses are not covered under PDS.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.